

170) including 17 metro stations over Indian Railways have been identified as-vulnerable and where security systems are proposed to be upgraded.

(b) As of now, there is no such proposal with Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

### **Summer tour programme**

3337. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has introduced this year a three pronged Summer Tour Programme in collaboration with the Southern Railway;

(b) whether this three pronged programme which covers Chennai-Coimbatore-Velparai-Anaimalai, Chennai-Kodaikanal-Munnar-Thekkadi, Chennai-Ooty-Mudhumalai routes be developed into a four pronged one, if not, during this summer at least from the next summer;

(c) whether the fourth route can cover Chennai-Rameswaram-Kanyakumari-Courtallum; and

(d) whether this fourth pronged programme will receive a favoured treatment from the Southern Railway since this would cover Kanyakumari, which forms the southern tip of our Motherland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has introduced six tour programme in collaboration with the Southern Railway as under:-

- (i) Chennai-Mamallapuram-Pondicherry-Madurai-Kodaikanal-Thekkady-Kottayam-Trivandrum-Kanyakumari for 8 days/7 nights from Kolkata.
- (ii) Chennai-Mamallapuram-Pondicherry-Tanjore-Trichy-Kodaikanal-Madurai-Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari for 8 days/7 nights from Kolkata.
- (iii) Trivandrum-Kovaiam-Madurai-Kodaikanal-Thekkady-Munnar-Ernakulam for 8 days/7 nights from Mumbai and Delhi also.

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- (iv) Kanyakumari-Madurai-Kodaikanal-Munnar-Kochi for 7 days/6 nights from Bangalore.
- (v) Trivandrum-Kovalam-Kumarakom-Thekkady-Munnar-Ernakulam for 5 days/4 nights from Bangalore.
- (vi) Ernakulam-Munnar-Kumarakom-Ernakulam for 5 days/4 nights from Bangalore.

In addition to above tour packages which will cover Chennai-Coimbatore-Valparai-Anaimalai, Chennai-Ooty-Madhumalai and Chennai-Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, Courtallum may be considered by IRCTC if found operationally feasible and financially viable. Kanyakumari is already included in the above 1st and 2nd tours being operated by IRCTC and will continue if demand is sustained.

#### **Accidents on unmanned crossings**

†3338. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents on the unmanned railway level crossings have become a routine feature and the demand for manned crossings is being continuously raised;

(b) whether this problem can be solved by constructing underpass at such places at the time of gauge conversion; and

(c) if so, whether such an arrangement would be made after identifying all such places at the time of gauge conversion on the Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Bikaner, Jaipur-Ringus-Luharu, Phulera-Ringus-Rewari, Ratangarh-Degana and Udaipur-Himmatnagar routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Accidents at unmanned level crossings is not a routine feature. Most of the accidents take place due to negligence of road users while crossing the unmanned level crossings. However, it is a fact that a number of demands for manning of unmanned level crossings are being received from time to time.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi